(a) whether it is a fact that India and Italy have recently signed agreements in the field of tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements; and

(c) the terms of agreements signed by two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) India has signed a bilateral agreement with Italy on 26th June, 2000 to encourage cooperation in the field of tourism. It provides for exchange of information on the characteristics of the tourism market, experience in the field of management of hotels, exchange of professionals for tourism training and development of tourism promotion and publicity. It lays emphasis on exchange of information along with exploring opportunities for cooperation if any other area of mutual interest in the field of tourism. The agreement was signed on mutually agreed terms, beneficial to both the countries.

Central help for development of tourist spots

4301. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many important tourist spots in the country have not been developed due to resource crunch faced by the States; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to identify such tourist spots and provide funds for developing them to attract more tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Identification, Development and promotion of tourism destinations/sites is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism under its scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Tourist Circuits and Destinations has been assisting State Governments based on the project proposals received from the State Governments, merit of the proposal, *inter-se*-priority and availability of funds.

Arrangements for 2010 Commonwealth Games

4302. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has proposed for an additional 25,000 hotel rooms ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games;

(b) whether a task force has been constituted under the Ministry of Urban Development for setting up hotels in and around Delhi;

(c) whether there is a move to label the hotels, hospitals and services attached to the tourism industry in the capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, the amounts to be spent and the time by which these rooms would be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Ministry of Urban Development has informed that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), while formulating the draft Master Plan for Delhi-2021, has taken note of the additional requirement of hotel accommodation in Delhi in view of the Commonwealth Games 2010 and has also proposed development control norms for a hierarchy of Hotels, Guest Houses, Hostels/Bed and Breakfast Accommodation.

Development of Tourist Centres in Punjab and Chhattisgarh

†4303. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL.
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Punjab and Chhattisgarh identified by Government for the development of tourism centres during the current year; and

(b) the details of outlines drawn by Government for the development of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Identification of tourist places/spots is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Government identifies such places of tourist interest and based on project proposals from the States including the State of Punjab and Chhattisgarh, Ministry of Tourism offers financial assistance for development of their infrastructure. As on date no project proposal is pending with the Ministry of Tourism from Punjab and Chhattisgarh for Central financial assistance during 2005-06.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.